

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 01969 171005Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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R 170559Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1725
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONGEN HONG KONG
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 1969

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PARM, NP, CH
SUBJECT: NEPALESE AND CHINESE COMMENTS ON NEUTRON BOMB AND BHUTTO

1. LOCAL PRESS VOICED GENERAL APPROVAL OF PRESIDENT'S
DECISION TO DEFER PRODUCTION OF ENHANCED RADIATION
WARHEADS. GORKHAPATRA, SEMI-OFFICIAL NEPALESE LANGUAGE
DAILY, IN EDITORIAL APRIL 10 SAW DECISION AS MITIGATING
CHANCES OF RIVALRY BETWEEN THE TWO SUPER-POWERS IN THE
ARMAMENTS RACE AND EXPRESSED VIEW THAT FUTURE AMERICAN
ATTITUDE ON THIS ISSUE WAS LIKELY TO BE DETERMINED
LARGELY BY SOVIET INTENTIONS.

2. GENERALLY FAVORABLE NEPALESE REACTION WAS ALL THE
MORE NOTABLE BECAUSE OF INTENSE CAMPAIGN CARRIED OUT
FOR LAST SIX MONTHS BY SOVIET EMBASSY IN ITS PRESS
RELEASES, LOCAL PUBLICATIONS AND NEWS CONFERENCES,
ATTACKING NEUTRON BOMB DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT.

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3. CHINESE REACTION AS CONVEYED TO US BY MEMBERS OF
CHINESE EMBASSY IN KATHMANDU CONTRASTS SHARPLY WITH THAT OF
NEPALESE AT VARIOUS SOCIAL FUNCTIONS IN LAST FEW DAYS.
PRC EMBASSY OFFICIALS HAVE COMMENTED SHARPLY IN
AGITATED, ALMOST DISTRESSED MANNER. CASTING THEIR
COMMENTS AGAINST BACKGROUND OF EVENTS IN AFRICA AND
MIDDLE EAST, THESE OFFICIALS HAVE LAMENTED ANNOUNCEMENT

OF NEUTRON BOMB DECISION AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF
INCREASING AMERICAN ISOLATION. POINTS THEY MADE
INCLUDED:

--CANCELLATION OF NEUTRON BOMB PRODUCTION WILL BE
READ IN MOSCOW AS ADDITIONAL SIGN OF AMERICAN
INDECISIVENESS, WILL BE SELF-DENIAL OF NATO COUNTERBALANCE
TO SOVIET ARMORED ADVANTAGE IN NORTH AND CENTRAL EUROPE,
AND WILL LEAD TO "SOVIET ADVENTURISM".

--ANY IDEA OF USING NEUTRON BOMB PRODUCTION AS
BARGAINING CHIP IN ARMS NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOVIETS IS
FALLACIOUS AND WILL PLAY INTO SOVIET HANDS.

--PRC REGARDS AFRICA AS ALREADY "LOST" TO
SOVIET/CUBAN PENETRATION BECAUSE OF U.S. INACTION,
AND THAT MIDDLE EAST WILL GO THE SAME WAY IF
CUBANS ARE ALLOWED TO INVOLVE THEMSELVES THERE.

--THE PRICE OF AMERICAN "ACCOMMODATION AND RETREAT"
FROM THE SOVIETS WOULD EVENTUALLY BE PAID BY ALL
NATIONS, AND NOT JUST THE USA.

--FAILURE OF AMERICA WILL HAVE DELETERIOUS
EFFECT ON PRC'S OWN EFFORTS TO SHORE UP PERIPHERAL
AREAS OF THE WORLD AGAINST SOVIET PENETRATION.
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4. PRC EMBASSY OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO ASKED US FOR OUR
VIEWS ABOUT BHUTTO AND WHETHER USG HAS BEEN IN
TOUCH WITH PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT, NOTING THAT
CHINA HAS HAD CLOSE RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN AND
THAT CHINESE HAVE SPECIAL REGARD FOR BHUTTO. THEY HAVE
ASKED WHETHER WE HAVE TAKEN HIS CASE UP WITH GOP.
THEY HAVE ADDED THAT THIS WOULD BE LOGICAL
STEP FOR US GIVEN PRESIDENT'S CONCERN FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION THEY HAVE
ACKNOWLEDGED MAKING REPRESENTATIONS IN ISLAMABAD.
OUR RESPONSE TO THESE QUERIES HAS BEEN THAT
WE UNDERSTAND USG HAS BEEN IN COMMUNICATION WITH
GOP.
EAVES

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